

The Commonweal

A Weekly Review of Literature, The Arts and Public Affairs

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Previous issues of THE COMMONWEAL are indexed in the *Reader's Guide* and the *Catholic Periodical Index*.

THE DRUMS BEGIN TO PLAY

SPECULATIONS concerning the fate of democracy (or democracies) have become favorite pastimes, and occasionally do not lack interest. Today one can frighten almost any state which professes a more or less parliamentary faith with pictures of what the earnest, lusty, strong dictatorships are likely to do. By comparison with the drilling which goes on in Mecklenburg or Piedmont, the reliance which nations like England still place on diplomatic method appears quite distressingly futile. When the franc or the stock market go down, it is construed as just another sign that only a strong man can save us now. To put the most important matter of all into a symbolical nutshell: the Duke of Windsor gave the Hitler salute at Berchtesgaden, all expenses paid, and did not bother meanwhile to tender his respects, as a friend of the workingman, to the tens of thousands of laborites who have fallen in Germany on their field of honor. It is hardly possible

to say more about certain fundamental weaknesses of contemporary democracy than that news dispatch implies.

And yet? In essential matters the democracies of Europe, at least, happen to be doing very nicely. First they have a chance to effect basic social changes without fateful recourse to violent extremism. The French have met the shock of unparalleled reforms, and the best one can say at present is that they are coming through nicely. Unless all one sees and hears is utterly mistaken, their country is reasonably safe against upheaval for some time to come. No one can ever permanently keep a nation from having a top and a bottom between which debates about bread and butter are inevitable. What one can do is to keep the social structure from becoming topheavy and toppling over because of this. Similarly the British have, through the dangerous coolness which followed on their defeat in the Ethiopian matter,

convinced every human being open to reason that they value the peace and will break it only in self-defense. Wars always bring pacifist reactions, but one thinks that such a reaction will in England unsettle neither state nor throne.

Second, the democracies are paying relatively little for the warfare which is in progress, though hostilities have not actually been declared. They are—witness the Czechs—getting a lot of defense for their money, for the simple reason that they can fight the kind of fighting done at present with, as it were, one hand. This is even from the strictly military point of view a highly important fact. It means that one is not down to one's second wind before the real martial race begins. It means also that no reasonable citizen can complain about the slice the government is cutting from his daily bread. There is in all Europe no democracy which feels that it is being wilfully and maliciously militarized. The situation is so different from what it was before 1914 that one is sometimes actually amazed. Doubtless many of the young Swiss or Dutch who are now being called to the colors hate military service. But they do not—indeed they cannot—resent it as an injustice either against themselves or against humanity.

These are, we think, tremendous advantages. They ought not to be overlooked, be it for no other reason than fortifying one's political reflections.

In so far as the extremist states are concerned, quite a different picture is manifest. One sees here also two important facts. First, none of them can afford to relax the pressure of extremist brutality. Name any of the dictators you like, and you name a sovereign who during very recent months has resorted to more suppression than has characterized earlier periods of his reign. The situation in Russia is obvious. Doubtless Stalin had very real plots on his hands. It seems beyond all question, for example, that army leaders were planning to upset the régime. If this be true, it demonstrates that years of single-mindedness, of autocracy, have led to crises more serious than most democracies have faced. Germany has added to an impressive total of edicts dozens of new ones, all of which are based on the heaviest possible penalties. The vast majority of citizens obey those mandates because they cannot do otherwise and live. But what it means in practice can easily be illustrated.

The recent triumphal procession of Mussolini through Germany was exceedingly unpopular. This is not mere hearsay, but a thoroughly authenticated fact. German veterans resented the feasting of one they identify with the treason of 1915, and the German worker was everything else but pleased with the show. In Berlin the government ordered out all workingmen in the major plants, with the provision that those who showed up would receive a day's pay while those who

stayed home would be docked. The people turned out and stood through the rain from early morning until late at night, mumbling their curses of the great man they were marshalled to welcome. It may be that such stunts can be put on with immunity now. But when the present masters relax their grip—and relax it they inevitably must—there will follow a day of reckoning the like of which modern history has not seen. Poorer long-run social management cannot be imagined.

Italy has a quite similar story to tell. Anybody who believes that the recruits for the Spanish war are waiting at the harbors with enthusiasm written all over their brows, or that the confiscatory real-estate and business property taxes are being paid with a patriotic smile, or that the pressure of censorship has been relaxed, had better put in an order for a new guess. The fact of the matter is that Italy seethes with poverty, dissatisfaction and resentment. Its government is still in the hands of a strong, able and resourceful man. Yet one must not believe that he is also a popular figure, or that his system is gaining vogue.

Second, the fact that wars cost enormous sums even when they are won is being demonstrated anew. Italy crushed Ethiopia; but at the moment Ethiopia is crushing Italy. This victory is today revealed as the most expensive won in Europe since 1918. Discounting the ideological factors at stake in the Spanish tragedy, the fact is apparent that for Mussolini the cost far surpasses the profit. Not all the naval bases which Spanish territory can provide can change the fact that Britain is assured in the Mediterranean of frank and full French cooperation. This tremendous gain has not cost England a cent or a principle. It is far more secure in the Mediterranean than it was before Mussolini began to reconstruct the Roman Empire. In quite the same way, the diplomatic victories which Germany has gained as a result of rearmament are misleading. She reoccupied the Rhineland from the military point of view; and she is taken very seriously whenever the problem of power arises. But these things mean only that Germany is stronger in case of war because she is willing to be weaker in case of peace. One consequence of the Rhineland occupation (the greatest Hitler triumph to date) was the rearmament of Britain, and one by-product of that is that Sweden will sell, in 1938, the bulk of its ore to the English. What a notch that means in the German belt is indicated sufficiently by the mere fact that under Goering's leadership exploitation of poor German ore deposits—uneconomic under private industry—has been resorted to. This action will cost Germany more in money and trade than a month of actual warfare.

From the point of view of the United States, these bare facts mean, or at least ought to mean, a new demonstration of the validity of the national

tradition. Contemporary democracy has a great many structural weaknesses, and is sometimes adorned with cornices in the worst possible taste. Nevertheless there are things in this world which are far lower in the scale of values. So much, at least, we Americans can say for ourselves: we are frequently quixotic, unreasonable, selfish and worse, but there are some qualities we have not yet manifested. That is probably not our fault. But it is a reason for being grateful to the past and determined about the future.

Week by Week

WE WERE very much interested in the report that, when representatives of the various branches of the building industry met in Washington to discuss housing, one of the subjects discussed was the changing attitude toward the permanency of the marriage tie. Charles F. Lewis, director of Pittsburgh's Buhl Foundation, pointed out that a changing attitude toward marriage on the part of large numbers of people is reflected in a decreased confidence in the stability of the marriage relationship. This changing attitude reflects the action a family may take with respect to its house. If there is lessened confidence in the stability of the institution, there is necessarily lessened confidence in the permanency of the family residence. It would appear that the maintenance of the family as the foundation of the social system becomes an economic as well as a moral responsibility. The National Housing Committee believes that the whole construction method of building is archaic and that present methods of financing, marketing and planning are wasteful. Traditionally the whole country speculates in real estate. How to curb this speculation is but one of many factors that must be taken into account in any national housing program.

WE HAVE been warned not to expect too much from the visit of Viscount Halifax, British Lord President of the Council, to Germany. The Central European problem has undoubtedly reached an acute stage. What can be done to acknowledge the legitimate needs of the Nazi government? What can be done to cure the Germans of the acute sense of inferiority inflicted on them by the Versailles Treaty and by the subsequent behavior of the so-called victorious powers? Dr. John P. Arendzen recently expressed the fear that, with France on the West, Russia on the East, and high tariff walls all around, the Germans may end by suffering from claustrophobia, a distress that may develop into a most dangerous madness. Increased arma-

ments may be a momentary necessity; but they certainly do not go to the root of the problem. Most people, we think, would welcome some practical demonstration—not in words only—that the other powers regard Germans as fellow Europeans who have great needs and wants which other nations might lessen—but only under conditions of assured safety from the threat of war and the immediate cessation of religious persecution.

CONCLUDING their annual meeting in Washington, eighty-two members of the American hierarchy pledged unceasing prayers for the German bishops and their persecuted people in their hour of trial. Today, they declared, the sense of all religious-minded men and women throughout the world is outraged by the satanic resourcefulness of Nazi leaders of modern paganism and by the incredible excesses committed by them in their attempt to exterminate religion and to blot out from the minds of the German people all true knowledge and love of God. This attack on religion must cease before there can be any real solution of the European crisis. If Nazi leaders persist in a vicious anti-God war, how can they expect a sympathetic hearing on any other matter before the court of world opinion? The hierarchy also addressed a letter of sympathy to the Spanish bishops and praised their recent letter as a "clear, calm, dignified statement on the condition of the Church in Spain." They again expressed their loyal adherence to the great democratic principles on which our government is founded—principles which are "basically a thing of sound reason and wholly consonant with Christian teachings." We express the patient hope that certain notoriously misinformed persons will study this declaration before launching another tirade against an alleged hostility between the basic principles of Christianity and democracy.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is seventy-five years old, and in celebration of its anniversary it is holding an exhibition of rural art gathered from every state and Alaska, Hawaii and the Philippines. Quite apart from the artistic value of the exhibit and the attention it directs "to the cultural side of country life," it is valuable as showing the unique position of the department itself. The chief place Secretary Morgenthau could think of saving federal money, he indicated in his recent speech, was in outlays to agriculture. Urban and industrial groups frequently express the opinion that farmers are the prime beneficiaries of tax gifts and mostly unconscious city philanthropy. Farm blocs are accused of most effective political selfishness. Farmers, in short, are said to be given

things other people pay for. The Department of Agriculture is practically the single nation-wide and federal paymaster and service agency for farmers, and, as this exhibition shows, enters intimately into the whole of rural life. We believe, however, its size is warranted. It is only a slight balance, after all, to all the governmental and private organizations that cater to industrialism. The laws it sponsors and administers—wise in themselves or not—are trivial compared to laws and institutions the country has built and operated to favor business. Our chief concern over the Department of Agriculture is not lest it give the farmers too good a break, but lest by its activities, remarkably totalitarian in their breadth, it should create a kind of centralized, state or party controlled union, pushing aside with its momentum and bureaucracy (an excellent civil service in this case) more socially spontaneous and convincingly free developments of the farmers themselves. But that is mostly up to the farmers.

WE HAVE no sources to tell us the why and wherefore of the murder of Patrick J. Corcoran, the Minnesota labor leader, but the facts known are in themselves of grave importance. It is an even more sinister affair than the killing of the union leader Redwood in New Jersey, just across the Hudson from New York City—a crime still unsolved, or at least a crime whose solution has not been announced. Mr. Corcoran was chairman of the North District Drivers' Council, active in five states and built around Local 544, a very radical Teamsters' local well hated by any numbers of individuals and groups. A week before the murder a Minneapolis newspaper columnist predicted that "a prominent Minneapolis labor leader" would be killed within two weeks. The threat extended to four of Corcoran's associates, including the three Dunne brothers, formidable Trotskyite leaders in the Twin Cities whose labor forces recently amalgamated with the A. F. of L. organization of Corcoran and Meyer Lewis. Motives could perhaps be attributed to hypothetical dismissed thugs, union officials lost in recent shuffling, C.I.O. rivals, rivals for the dead man's position, Stalinist enemies of Trotskyites, capitalist enemies of revolutionists, politicians with ambitious plans, plain labor racketeers and probably many more. But terrorism is something that should not be allowed to grow for any cause. It certainly disrupts any rational labor or industrial or political program.

LET US hope the disease doesn't spread (having started) here as abroad. Let us hope Minneapolis finds a Dewey to ferret out the facts, and more important, that Twin City politics and labor and industry organize in a way that excludes

advocates of personal terrorism and any possibility of further murder, advertised as in this case, or sudden, as when the labor editors Liggett and Guilford were assassinated there two and three years ago.

IT IS not well to dismiss hastily any suggestion made in good faith for solving the disturbing problem of sex crimes. However, we must say at once that the suggestion reported as coming from Inspector O'Connell, director of the New York Police Academy and police crime laboratory, seems so wide of the mark that to entertain it seriously will result in nothing but confused public thinking. Testifying at the County Court House committee sittings, to which we have already adverted more than once, Inspector O'Connell advocated fingerprinting the entire populace, beginning with children when they enter school, so that "by the time the children are adults we would have complete records of all mental defectives, perverts and psychopathic cases." This is not the first time by a good many, of course, that this practise has been urged in connection with crime suppression. But as it is specifically applied here to one category of crime, its fallacy is the more clearly evident.

THE BURDEN of proof, of course, is against the idea on general grounds. To subject everyone to an experience which all regard as humiliating and coercive (despite a perpetual effort to annul that fact), in order to bring the few, relatively speaking, to justice, would betoken a bad sense of proportion; and you cannot safely have a bad sense of proportion when you are governing. It is a desperate alternative, and would seem to indicate a very grave breakdown in the ordinary machinery of justice. Probably it would help in the apprehension of criminals; but so would universal branding. The idea among a free people is to accomplish things like policing as much as possible within the framework and in the atmosphere of freedom. But over and above this, though we would defer to Inspector O'Connell as an authority in matters on which we have no right to speak, we have the right to an opinion on what will check sex perversion. It assuredly is not fingerprinting, and the multiplication of already swollen records. Some of the worst cases of this aberration have a full *dossier*, which apparently has been of no use to anyone. The marks of the malady are known; the phenomena repeat endlessly. A law of humane segregation may be necessary for confirmed cases. For incipient cases, cases that can be corrected, something far different than police checking and laboratory tests, is needed—something in the field of organic spiritual growth, that will strengthen the insufficient personality from within.

WORKERS' COOPERATIVES

By JOSEPH H. FICHTER

THE SIX members of the Inquiry on Co-operative Enterprise in Europe came back from their two and a half months' tour to inform us that Consumers' Cooperation is a movement furthered by the poor mass and merely tolerated by the rich class. They tell us that "in many countries where class distinctions are important, many people avoid the 'workers' stores, as the cooperatives are called."

That may well be true in Europe, but in this country we like to pretend that all are equal, and that we hold no brief for undemocratic class distinctions. For that reason we have a better chance to view consumer cooperation for what it really is, an association for the ultimate consumers. All are included in the consumer cooperative, the best-known and most successful type in America; but since we are primarily concerned with the benefits the wage-earner can get out of the co-ops we must survey his function in all types following the standard Rochdale principles. This would sweep into our consideration the worker in the Producers', Marketers', Wholesalers', and the allied groups such as Credit Unions, Housing, Insurance and General Purpose Co-ops.

Cooperativism is most advantageous for the man who is both employed by, and a member of, a cooperative society. As James P. Warbasse wrote last year in his "Cooperative Democracy" (page 189):

The worker in the consumers' cooperative industry realizes that he is engaged in a social undertaking. He is a member of the organization that employs him. No one has any more votes or voice than he in its control. He knows that his industry is benefiting all the consumer members of the society who own it.

The movement assists not only the members working, both in lower and "white collar" positions within the system, but also the great numbers of men and women who are member consumers and are gaining their livelihood in private-profit business. It helps the member-worker directly since whatever he undertakes in favor of the group must reflect benefits upon himself; and it helps indirectly all the members of the so-called laboring "class." To anyone who understands the fundamental principles of cooperation it is an obvious fact that cooperative employees are not working to make the wealthy wealthier, but rather to make the poor less poor.

Though labor and the consumer need not be synonymous, it is nearly always true that labor and the poor move hand-in-hand through the gyrations of the American mentality. Whatever is

good for the worker is good for all livers-in-the-lower-brackets; and both of these are benefited by what is good for the consumer—who is everybody.

Again, the mistaken opinion is prevalent in this country that almost all cooperatives are made up of farmers, an opinion probably founded on the publicity given our successful cooperators among the Midwestern farmers and dairymen. Only incomplete statistics can be found giving the types of employment of American cooperative members. However, among the North European countries, where cooperation is almost the universal way of life, both ruralists and urbanites are well represented in the movement. The following chart indicates a slightly smaller percentage of farmers, a percentage that would be even less if workers in transportation, communications and allied employments were included.

	GENERAL POPULATION		COOPERATIVE MEMBERS	
	Industrial		Industrial	
	Workers	Farmers	Workers	Farmers
Czechoslovakia . . .	34.9	34.7	66.7	7.7
Denmark	27.4	29.9	27.0	51.0
Finland	16.8	59.6	33.9	47.7
Norway	28.0	30.0	26.4	34.2
Sweden	37.3	40.4	43.3	18.8

A close consideration of these figures is not superfluous. They tend to show that consumer cooperativism is not only a workers' movement, but also that it can be used and enjoyed by every type of worker.

The chief objective of consumers' cooperation is essentially the same as that of labor. Call it a demand for a higher standard of living, a desire to improve one's economic position; it all comes to the same thing. The history of the growth of labor organization and consumer cooperation runs parallel. In the case of labor it has been a fight between the worker and the big-money industrialist; in the case of cooperativism it has been a fight between the consumer and the big-profit producer. During the last century it was considered good business to work a man as long as possible and pay him as little as possible, and care nothing about his working conditions. Likewise it was considered good business to charge as much as possible for goods of poor quality, and care nothing about the service rendered the buyer. Low-paid workers were powerless to protect themselves individually from exploitation, and they turned to unionization to enforce their demands. Just so, consumers of low income turned to cooperation as their way out.

Beyond that first and all-important aim, the theories of cooperative leaders vary almost as greatly as those of professional labor leaders. Among the English and Scottish cooperators there is a salty socialistic tang to the movement, and they state openly that socialism is their ultimate objective. The cooperatives would become both the producing and the distributing agencies of the state. Others among the lesser leaders believe that the cooperatives and the state should divide the country's economic functions. Others foresee a cooperative commonwealth in which private business would be abolished and the consumers themselves would operate all production and distribution of commodities. With them private monopoly is the besetting sin, cooperative monopoly the greatest good.

The saner view, in keeping with the principles of the Rochdale Weavers, is shared by our own American cooperators with the Swedes, Swiss, Danes and others who have been at all articulate on the matter of objectives. We wish to lower the cost of living by cutting the price of commodities and establishing some kind of price-controlling agency. The preservation and increase of private property among low-paid workers is a dream already come true in some of the well-functioning American cooperatives.

All this swings our attention back to the worker. How does he fit in? What can he get out of membership in the cooperatives? Like the idea of workers' rights, the idea of consumers' rights has taken a long time to catch popular interest. As a result the co-ops, like the unions, have been slow of growth. Economic cooperation and union idealism are both to a great extent a state of mind. For the success of the group, individual members must be educated to the ideals of the movement, they must "catch on" to the fact that enthusiasm and personal sacrifice are necessary for cooperative success. They must align themselves with their goal and then hang on stolidly through the early crises of their new venture. It may take ten years to lay the foundations of a good cooperative organization. But does the final result justify all this time, work and worry?

To understand fully the benefits accruing to labor under a cooperative plan it is best to consider the worker under a twofold aspect: first, as a member employed by a cooperative society; secondly, as a member employed by private-profit business outside the cooperative.

For these five main reasons his participation in the consumer cooperatives is beneficial for the wage earner who is gaining his livelihood in the enterprise: (a) he receives better than a living wage; (b) he enjoys stability of employment; (c) he has good working hours and fine working conditions; (d) he enjoys all the rights of the union man; (e) he realizes the dignity of labor.

In regard to the first of these five advantages the consensus of opinion given by the members of the President's Inquiry is this:

Consumer cooperatives as a rule pay higher than going wages to labor, require shorter hours, and are more liberal with vacations and sick leaves. Cooperative stores in general pay workers 10 to 15 percent more than the going rate, and pension their old workers. Most cooperatives employ chiefly union workers, have collective agreements and arbitration boards which handle the few labor disputes that arise. In general there is a close relationship between organized labor and consumer cooperatives.

It is not a matter of amazement that consumers, once they have organized cooperatively, should refuse to tolerate low wages within their own enterprise. They are the ones who guard the purse-strings of the nation, budget the income, and buy the meat and groceries. They know from experience that you cannot buy unless you have buying power. Therefore, they have set the standard everywhere for higher wages, not because they think of themselves as exemplary producers or marketers but (as Edward Filene said last April) "because they have learned so quickly what it took labor unions so long to find out; that the true measure of wages is what they will buy."

One instance comes to mind of a cooperative employment service demanding higher wages for labor than labor demanded for itself. When the Restaurant Code was under discussion and the Labor Board had approved a minimum wage of \$.28 an hour, the Consumers' Cooperative Services, of New York, went to Washington and argued that \$.40 an hour should be the minimum. This service conducts restaurants and other businesses, and was desirous of maintaining and even increasing the wages of its employees.

The policy of higher wages and better treatment of workers is characteristic of cooperative societies all over the world. In Sweden the 3,000 retail workers of Konsum, the largest store in Stockholm, average from 10 to 15 percent higher wages than workers holding the same jobs in private-profit enterprises. In England the co-ops pay more than the unions demand. Transport workers and construction labor receive about 10 percent above union wages from their cooperative employers. Dairy workers get as much for six days' work in the co-ops as others get for seven days' work in the private trade. And so it goes with the rest. A member of the Manchester and Salford Cooperative made this statement at the British Cooperative Congress in 1936: "We have not any employee out of 2,200 who is not getting above the recognized union rate of wages." In Denmark the clerks and office workers are more highly paid, while in manufacturing and marketing cooperative wages are about the same, or only slightly higher, than union wages.

The only positions in which salaries are lower in the cooperative system than in privately owned business are those of higher executives. The executive head of all the cooperatives in Sweden is paid about \$6,000 a year for doing a job that would pay about \$100,000 to a private American business man.

The policy of higher wages for the common worker in the cooperative was developed only after years of trial and error handling of the "profits." Some of the early consumer groups drifted away from the idea that cooperatives were not in business to make profit from their members. They divided the profits not only with the consumers but also with the employees, as a bonus, in proportion to their wages. Now that the philosophy of consumer cooperation has been studied more closely and understood more fully it has been found best to pay a consistently high wage to employees, and divide the net profits among the consumers in proportion to their patronage.

One further comment on cooperative wages is worthy of note. In the sectional agreement made in September, 1935, between Cooperative Societies' Hours and Wages Boards and the Trade Unions (of Great Britain) the following is found:

In all cases of absence from work arising through sickness or physical or mental incapacity for work the production of satisfactory medical evidence shall give the right to sickness payment under this agreement as follows: A total of four weeks' half pay in the aggregate in any one year, dating from January 1 to December 31.

The workers further receive sixteen holidays with pay each year.

Continuous employment is the second benefit that usually characterizes the fortunate worker in cooperative employ. The movement is growing steadily in this country and the opportunities for the worker are steadily increasing. Besides that, unemployment can often be forestalled by efficient management, standardization of products and, finally, by the cooperative's human attitude toward its employees. Cooperative industry is not in operation to make money, but to save money. Consequently it has much less fear of overproduction than has private-profit industry. A comparison of the two will show that unemployment and labor turn-over are surprisingly less under the cooperative system.

James Warbasse, president of the Cooperative League of the United States, tells of a conversation he had in Switzerland:

When the shoe factory of the Swiss cooperative union at Basel was running full time, making more shoes than the society could use, and storing them in its warehouses in order not to throw its workers out of employment, the superintendent's reply to my

question is illuminating: "This is not a profit-making business; it is a social enterprise."

The great truth behind that story is the fact that half the people in Switzerland were owners of that factory, and the slight loss that the owners would take from overproduction is insignificant when compared to the workers' loss through unemployment. Furthermore, if people don't work, they don't consume shoes.

Cooperativism, more than any other system, approaches the ideal where production, distribution and consumption, and consequently employment, reach a more or less steady equilibrium. More than in private business there is a steady and determinable consumer demand. This accounts for the conservative equalization of cooperative distribution and production, which in turn assures greater stability of employment and a sense of security for the workers.

So great is the desire of cooperative leaders to maintain the workers in employment that they are continually planning against possible economic upsets. The Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society is working for a national amalgamation in order to promote stability of employment. The Finnish Cooperatives furnished work during the depression by completing a much-needed construction program. At the Swedish Cooperative Congress in 1936, it was decided to urge a general policy of holding in reserve some construction projects and completing them in depression periods. During the last depression the Swedish cooperatives forged ahead of private business and, among other units, built a large macaroni factory.

The English groups are building up a financial reserve for the future by limiting patronage rebates to 5 percent. In many of the shops and factories the "stagger" system is used in hard times; half the workers carrying on the business one week, and the other half the next. Of course, such weak methods will not be necessary in the future. In its present policy and rate of growth cooperativism will be ready to withstand any depression.

The secret of cooperative stability of employment is simple. The cooperatives have learned to produce and distribute to the best advantage of all the people, the consumers, and to employ most of the people in such production and distribution.

The English cooperative-union agreement mentioned above is a fair indication of the universal cooperative custom in the matter of hours and working conditions. It reads further:

The general working week shall be one of forty-four hours, but in the case of clerks and check clerks the weekly hours shall be forty, with the exception of shop cashiers and others, whose duties are such as to necessitate their attendance during the full business hours of the society.

For all time worked beyond the weekly number of hours, the following provisions are made: First four hours, time and a quarter rate. All other hours, time and a half rate. For Sundays and all statutory holidays, double time rate.

A recent survey and comparison of cooperative and private enterprise in the United States shows that the actual hours worked by cooperative employees are appreciably lower than those of other employees. The difference is most striking in retail stores privately owned and operated where unionization of labor is impractical. This is particularly true of chain store managers and clerks, many of whom are forced to stay on the job for approximately sixty-five hours a week.

These chain stores will, I suppose, eventually cut down the number of hours worked by their employees. They will add showers and recreation halls, making a grand gesture of their humane attitude toward the workers, and all the while they will be doing it only because they are forced to do so by public opinion, state laws or union threats. With the cooperative industries it is vastly different. As Warbasse well exclaims:

The factories of many cooperatives are equal to any in the world. Shower baths and dining rooms in factories are not peculiar to the cooperative movement, but in the cooperative movement they are put there by the workers as something that is the right of the workers and not installed in lieu of wages, or as a palliative or by legal compulsion.

In this country organized labor is credited with

taking the lead in getting better conditions for the workers, but in other countries where cooperatives are the norm it was the organized consumers who showed the way to the "fuller life." Labor's prime hate, the Speed-Up, is tabu in cooperative industry. In Great Britain, long before the "early closing" was made legally compulsory, the co-operative societies gave their employees a weekly half-holiday. Twenty years before the eight-hour day became a legal necessity, the Crumpsall biscuit factory of the English Cooperative Wholesale Society put it into effect for its workers. Light and sanitation in shops and the abolishing of night work were cooperative innovations. Lessening the drudgery of long hours for retail store employees was another.

Workers in production and transportation, as well as in distribution, have a happier existence under cooperative management. A British government statistician told the Inquiry Commission:

Better working conditions are generally maintained. They provide shorter hours, more generous vacations and pension arrangements and tend to furnish more secure employment than is the case in private trade. There are some exceptions, but co-operatives are among the best employers from the point of view of the workers.

Is it a matter of wonder, then, that the American laboring man is beginning to take a less jaundiced view of cooperative enterprise? He no longer thinks of it as a "flash-in-the-pan."

(This article will be concluded next week.)

CANADA INVESTS IN YOUTH

By E. L. CHICANOT

PERHAPS the most distressing aspect of the period of economic depression through which Canada, in common with the rest of the continent, has been passing and out of which she feels she is, in the main, successfully emerging, has been the manner in which the unprecedented conditions experienced have affected the youth of the country. Business conditions are improving; the figures of employment are rising; the numbers subsisting on government relief are declining; but the youth problem remains with the country in all its pathos and tragedy.

It is the problem of those who attained to adolescence in the period of stress, who, embarking on the business of life with the confidence and enthusiasm of youth, found themselves unwanted by the world of affairs and the doors to employment of any kind closed to them. They have grown to maturity in enforced unemployment, lacking the opportunity to learn to work, which they sought with diminishing eagerness and in-

creasing despair until they sank into a state of utter hopelessness of ever finding places for themselves in a world of absolute chaos.

There are thousands of them today and the glimpses of the sun shining through the clouds does not cheer them as it does countless others. They still find themselves unwanted in the swelling ranks of industry, for economically they are of little value to employers. Though mature, they remain, as far as employable usefulness is concerned, exactly where they were when they left school. Physically they lack the training they should have been receiving in the years since that time, while in addition they are suffering psychologically from the effects of prolonged idleness and despond.

In 1936, the federal government established a National Employment Commission under an outstandingly successful industrialist to sift the entire problem of unemployment and devise means of getting people off relief rolls into gainful employ-

ment. It became increasingly apparent as they prosecuted their investigations that the crux of the problem was that of increasing employability among the young and providing some substitute for the apprentice system which the conditions prevailing during the Great War had very seriously impaired and the depression almost completely destroyed.

Confirming this as the most important phase of the situation were the reports of employers that, in the steady improvement in industrial conditions, a shortage of skilled workers threatened to develop. In every province there appeared to be need of providing a means of training young Canadians to fit into industry as they attained manhood. This, it was emphasized, was imperative if Canadian youth was to be given its chance in industry and industry given the opportunity of recruiting native labor.

Accordingly at the last session of the Federal Parliament the Minister of Labor introduced legislation calculated to inaugurate a movement which would remedy the situation. The sum of \$1,000,000 was voted to be spent, after the conclusion of pacts with the provinces, for the purpose of raising the employability of unemployed young people. In these agreements the federal government undertook to spend dollar for dollar with each of the provinces entering into the scheme. The matter of devising projects for the expenditure of this money, the sums naturally varying in different provinces according to the proportion of the problem, was left in the hands of the provinces, subject only to approval by the National Employment Commission.

The projects were to be open to unemployed young men and women between the ages of eighteen and thirty, with the selection made by the province without discrimination or favor in relation to their social origin, religious views or political affiliations. Provision was to be made for vocational guidance by qualified officers before entering on a course of training to ensure that the training and subsequent employment should be in accordance with the individual's aptitude. It was arranged that living allowances should be paid in necessitous cases to enable applicants to attend courses away from home; and that wherever possible instruction should be given in physical education and health, and provision made for recreational activities. Stress was laid on the necessity of setting up special machinery for placement in employment on completion of the training given.

Such training in progress on an introductory but substantial scale from coast to coast is at present within sight. Pacts have been concluded with all provinces, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island having recently entered into them. They involve thousands of young men and women in each province and the expenditure of sums

ranging from \$100,000 in each of the western provinces to \$500,000 in Ontario and \$440,000 in Quebec. Even so the plan as it exists today is considered but a commencement and in some respects frankly experimental. Next year it will be enlarged, with an increase in the appropriation and a possible extension into a higher age field. In the manner the scheme is being launched, however, reflecting the essential needs of the areas concerned, can broadly be discerned the general trend of operation.

Thus British Columbia's plan for young men embraces practical and technical courses in forestry work with a training period of approximately four months; and training in placer mining followed by an opportunity for prospecting in small parties. In urban centers there is to be industrial apprenticeship and leadership to help train young men or women in skilled or semi-skilled employment by paying the cost of their instruction either in special classes in technical schools or in periods of instruction in shop or factory.

Alberta is cooperating with the University of Alberta in training allied to agriculture for unemployed young people from farms and rural districts, with special consideration to those from officially recognized drought areas. The program includes local agricultural courses for young men and women at selected centers, district farm courses for men and rural homemaking courses for women. Another Alberta project is the reconditioning of unemployed young men by employing and training them in forest conservation as assistants to forest rangers, while there is a plan to provide for the training of unemployed young women residing in urban districts as household workers and for specialized services.

Plans for Saskatchewan and Manitoba are somewhat similar, provincial governments co-operating with provincial universities and providing in addition to local and district courses in farm subjects short agricultural courses and winter courses at the universities. Courses in household economics, home craft, handicraft and similar farm subjects have been arranged for young women and provision made for the registration, vocational guidance, specialized training and placement of unemployed young women in the urban localities. Industrial apprenticeship has been arranged for men in the manufacturing centers.

In the more populous and more highly industrialized province of Ontario plans are naturally more elaborate and the planned expenditure correspondingly higher. Several projects have been approved: (1) Forest conservation work to provide a practical course in forestry on the provincial forest reserves for approximately 350 young men, with class instruction in related subjects. (2) Technical training in mining to be given in the

technical schools of Northern Ontario to a selected group of 50 young men, designed to fit them for positions in the mining industry. (3) Rural training through the provision of practical courses in subjects related to agriculture for young men and courses in homecraft, household economics and other suitable subjects for young women. Arrangements have been made to give 500 young men training in farm work by placing them with carefully selected farmers throughout the province who agree to furnish adequate training and instruction in farming. (4) Industrial apprenticeship for young men and women through paying them an allowance in lieu of wages while attending classes in technical schools or undergoing instruction on the job or in shop or factory. This plan is promoted by a staff of specially appointed and qualified officers to canvass employers in the province who in the case of learners are expected to pay at least 60 percent of the combined wage and instruction allowance.

Quebec's plan is only slightly less ambitious than that of Ontario and embraces training in mining and forestry and industrial apprenticeship for men and training in housework, home economics and handicrafts for women. Some 100 young men are to be given training in hard-rock mining in a mine operated by the provincial government, board, lodging, mine clothing and a daily training allowance being given each youth and class instruction and supervision being provided by a nucleus of trained miners. Two hundred young men are to be given a winter course of training in forestry for five months under the direction of the Quebec Forest Service, covering technical instruction in forest schools and practical work in the provincial forest reserves. Traveling expenses are paid to and from the project, a clothing bonus given to those who complete the course, and a daily wage paid from which the cost of board is to be deducted. In the urban centers occupational training is being given after the manner in Ontario and the western provinces and advisory committees have been formed of employers, labor and educational authorities to assist in formulating and carrying out the plans of training.

Parish and district courses in farming and agricultural subjects are to be given throughout Quebec in both French and English, the former being designed to provide instruction in those branches of farming suited to the area, and the latter to train leaders for rural cooperative associations. Women's courses are to be carried on with the assistance of local advisory committees. In the larger urban centers leisure time activities and instruction in health and physical education are being considered through the cooperation of private organizations with a view to building up the physical fitness and maintaining the morale of unemployed young men and women.

The general tendency is to regard this scheme for the reconditioning of youth as an emergency measure, framed to benefit an important group in the community apt to be overlooked by others as they begin to feel the rays of a warmer economic sun. Actually it is much more in projection, and even in its conception and early planning has deep social implications. Viewed in the light of the new rapprochement of capital and labor, and in combination with the many new phases of social legislation, such as those establishing the right of collective bargaining, minimum wages and maximum hours, as well as the progress being made in the dominion in the unionization of labor, there seems to be foreshadowed a rebuilding of the apprenticeship system on a new and more satisfactory basis.

In this connection it has been most significant to note the success which has attended efforts to enlist the cooperation of capital, of industry, of employers, to lend their plants and technical knowledge, their farms and agricultural experience, to raise the employable state of youth, to arrange for the economic absorption of trained workers. In some provinces, in fact, professional corporations with representatives of capital, labor and industry, have been given a legal identity. Canada's youth movement is only just launched and beginning to get under way but there can be glimpsed dimly on the horizon something that looks more like corporatism than anything the dominion has ever known.

Plowman without a Plow

She had been worried at her husband's ways
Going on for many nights and days,
Ever since he got the farm he'd carried
In his mind the years they had been married.
Thirty years it was he'd talked of farm,
And now his sons were grown, there seemed no harm
In letting him ease up and have his toy.
He had grown up on one as a boy,
And it would make him happy now, she thought,
To live on one again. But there was not
A night he rested sound. He'd leave the bed
And go outdoors, with something in his head.

Old men should not get up at dawn, she knew.
One dawn when he had left, she got up, too,
Went to the window, and she saw him stand
On the hill with something in his hand.
He let it fall, she saw it was plain dirt,
Yet something in the way he did it hurt.
He let it crumble through his fingers slow,
He watched it with his head bent over low.
When the last of all he held was gone,
He turned and walked uphill against the dawn,
And as the walker went, he seemed somehow
A plowman old and grey without a plow.

ROBERT P. TRISTRAM COFFIN.

TEACHER AND WRITER

By JOHN ABBOT CLARK

JUDGING by what has been written and said about higher education in America during a period of time discouragingly long, it would seem that from now on it can hardly go any direction but up—either that or over. If it is true that the future of America rests with her educational institutions, the time has undoubtedly come for persons who have it within their power to alter the character of our higher education to do something, actually do something before the insects come. Courageous diagnosis in these days (all of which, even at its best, Cardinal Newman's "Idea of a University" renders superfluous) can be carried further only at the risk of becoming mock rhetoric.

Only through action, direct and immediate action in the field of education, particularly higher education, will America be able to silence that increasingly insistent demand for "direct action" in fields where capitulation to that demand might very well mean the blasting of our hopes for a humane civilization in America.

Colleges and universities being almost without exception what they are today, one is naturally surprised to discover that English departments are even tolerated any more. But the surprise turns to shame when one learns of the price they have paid for their sharehold. They have survived, not only their own terms, but on terms laid down for them by the onetime objects of their suspicion. The English teacher was once his own man; today he is frequently somebody else's schoolmarm. For years old-guard English teachers fought openly against divisional and departmental forces that were intent upon converting them into research scientists, sociologists, internes or kindergarten attendances. These forces—malign, misguided or just plain meddlesome—have become so all-powerful that what resistance persists has been driven underground. More and more it is becoming the conventional thing to expect the college English teacher to look after the breaks in the educational dike by sticking his head in them.

But if the typical college English teacher has at last gone over to the enemy, he will be some time persuading others to believe that he was the victim of influences and pressures entirely beyond his control. His degradation has been partly of his own willing and largely of his own fashioning. That English teachers today are the most easily browbeaten persons in the academic world is an opinion quite generally held by members of other departments, who not only hold such an opinion,

but act upon it. The college English teacher's reason for being has been called in question by his colleagues; and the English teachers themselves, when they have not sold out, have, nevertheless, shown no inclination to strike back, no willingness to employ wiser and studied strategy. Most of them have even less respect for their profession than have their natural enemies the applied scientists, the sociologists and the educationists. Lacking vision and mettle, they have surrendered to low-browisms and pseudo-realities of a world that has just about decided to try living by bread alone.

College English departments could very logically serve as the spearheads of an attack on the many forces and instruments that have finally succeeded in bringing liberal education to its present impasse. In the event that higher education should decide to act upon some of the advice that has been pouring over the critical spillways these many years (and it had better hurry), English departments, unless they have sunk even lower than we like to think, will have their work cut out for them.

But, first, they have a world of work cut out for themselves. Before they can gain the respect of their colleagues in other departments, they must first regain their own. And they will never succeed in doing so until they dispel that cloud of pettiness and all-around triviality that envelops them today. To put the matter bluntly, a college English teacher was never intended to be a friend of the court, a dean of men, a psychiatrist, the hound of orthography, or the scourge of the comma splice. Moreover, it was long taken for granted that grammar-school matters should be disposed of not too anachronistically.

English teachers can truly say, with pardonable cynicism, that the "teaching" of English has come full circle. When our country was young in years and our colleges, many of them, not much older, English (the modern equivalents are lightning-quick survey courses, "lectures" on contemporary literature, "clinics" in fiction writing) was not taught to young gentlemen and prospective ministers. The elements of composition and the ability to read, together with the desire to do so, were assumed. That is to say, parents, grammar schools and students (using the term in its root sense) were assumed. English teachers of the present day take their cues from the educationists and, consequently, take nothing for granted about their students. However, judging by the procedures widely adopted by college English teachers, they do tacitly assume that most students, before

coming to college, either lived in Yugoslavia or spent most of their early years in dark closets in the guinea-pig service of parents who write books on abnormal psychology.

Since the English teacher (in most state universities, anyway) is primarily, when not exclusively, a teacher of Freshman composition, let us consider it. The teacher of English A should give some of his students credit for not being academic stowaways. Flattery has its uses. It is certainly the better part of pedagogical wisdom to believe that the saving remnant in English A is capable of learning from books, even handbooks of grammar and rhetoric. The superior students, often through little or no fault of their own, may occasionally display a rather shocking ignorance of rudiments, but both they and the instructor should realize that matters of a more advanced nature ought not to be held up while these background gaps are being filled. One's primary- and secondary-school deficiencies are essentially extracurricular concerns, and they should be viewed as such. The poorer, often altogether hopeless students will, of course, sense that they have been taken in by somebody; and it is the instructor's duty to suggest that only by doing their utter best will they be able to turn moral and financial fraud into the advantage that it potentially is.

Having decided, for the best of reasons, we think, to teach composition on the college level, the instructor will insist upon observance of the ground rules of writing, but he will just as firmly insist that their mastery be considered a private responsibility. The instructor should give his time, and generously, to students who possess a marked aptitude for the clean, effective expression of worth-while experiences or independently arrived at ideas suggested or buttressed by serious reading. Why colleges should tolerate the instructor's being ground into little pieces by students who have nothing more communal or important to confer about than their atrocious spelling will, we trust, not always remain a mystery. If the weaker students are either unwilling or unable to do anything about their spelling, their grammar and syntax, or their general fund of ideas, then there is certainly no reason under the sun why their incapacity for doing college work should be made the be-all, the end-all of Freshman composition. Neither the college nor the teacher is justified in taking them seriously. The college instructor who really loves his country will feel obligated to deal as helpfully as possible with educable students. This is what we sorely wish more teachers really meant when they talk about leadership and the training therefor.

Another point that needs to be made about the teaching of Freshman composition concerns the matter of reading. Students interested in learning to write might very well do a great deal less

writing and a great deal more reading—careful reading, occasionally close, analytical reading of writers who probably learned to write by doing that very thing themselves. Fit students will learn more from concentrated, attentive reading than from the playing of droll, insipid parlor games in the name of background work in Freshman composition. They will learn more about writing (to say nothing about their receiving intimations of advanced work in logic and wisdom) by reading what Cardinal Newman has to say about liberal education or what President Hutchins has to say about general education than by setting down their November reflections on the enchantments of the old swimming hole back home. For that matter, certain stock types of educators known to all of us might profitably devote all their reading time of the next five years to "The Idea of a University."

The teacher of advanced composition, or creative writing (to use the tonier phrase), should try to get it back on a college level, also. Today the only thing that a teacher can be sure of when a student enrolls in an advanced writing course is that the student wants very much to write—passionately, often almost pathologically wants to write. He wants to write of himself, of his parents, of the girl he used to go with, of the parents of the girl he is now going with, of the class struggle, of the college education that he isn't getting (and often he doesn't know the half of it). Unlike their god, Hemingway, most students in creative writing courses are not at all interested in first finding out what has already been done once and for all, or what the contemporary writer must do to beat "bests" that are not good enough. The majority of them are opposed to the reading of older writers (which includes all pre-war writers who have failed to catch the fancy of the post-war bellwethers) on principle; while the only contemporary writers they respect are those who pride themselves on their modernity, their daring originality, their white-hot championing of one set of traditional values and techniques, their contempt for another similar set.

Typical student writers fall all too easily and quickly into two distinct classes: those who want to sell, and those who want to be alone. Writers of the first group take a hard, no-nonsense attitude toward teachers of advanced composition. And the teachers, we regret to report, are often better equipped to meet these trade-school expectations than they should be. What is worse, many teachers pride themselves upon their usefulness to would-be hacks. Some of these teachers have fallen; others have merely followed their bents.

Student writers of the other class are, of course, the future mainstays of the more erotic, goonishly esoteric, experimental magazines. They write for themselves, for their friends and for nothing; they take great pride in their uniqueness, their

Swiss-movement sensibilities, their miscellaneous erudition, their freedom from the slightest taint of the commercial, and their superiority to custom and rule. They are the country's future intellectuals, and in the light of what have been passing for intellectuals in America these many years, are sure to be duly accredited as such.

Many sincere, hyper-esthetic teachers of advanced composition allow their loathing of pedestrian writing to corrupt taste and cripple judgment. After many years of reading Freshman themes on the beauties of friendship, they tend, understandably enough, to attribute anything that smacks even faintly of subtlety or bounce to genius. There are other teachers who without provocation very deliberately and cold-bloodedly encourage eccentricity and sensationalism in student writing. In their craving for novelty, violence and shock in writing, many teachers of creative writing are so close to readers of the *Mirror* that one might better give vent to a momentary shudder and then try to forget about it.

It would probably be a gain for everybody concerned if teachers of creative writing would begin to think of themselves once more as teachers of advanced composition. The loss in prestige would be more than offset by the gain in self-respect. Moreover, their influence upon students who are interested in the craft of writing and capable, in time, of having something really worth-while to say or render would become one for good. The college English teacher owes to his good students an unyielding regimen of discipline. Ambitious student writers should do a great deal of writing, but it should be done—while they are in college, anyway—solely with a view to learning how to write, not in the hope of being able to throw up a good dishwashing job and earning the rest of one's way through the school by the pen.

Students, and student writers especially, are (or should be) in college mainly for the purpose of learning, absorbing. They ought to take advantage of the occasion to make the acquaintance of great minds and great authors, the few truly genuine, truly contemporary men of our time or any other. Student writers will have the rest of their lives to express themselves, crack *Liberty* wide open, or now and then send a heartening sketch to the editor of *Magneto and Wrist-Pin*. Today (teachers of creative writing being what they have become) student writers run out and dash off a short short between classes; or, given a little more time and the proper "urge," they turn up at the family board with an interior monologue snaking along on three or four planes simultaneously.

An honest teacher of composition could do worse than recommend less writing of A themes and more reading of A books—even a few now and then that are more than a year old. A good standard work on logic could not possibly do much lasting harm, while a little sustained reading of a few of the more lucid philosophers and some of the more sober historians would not generally prove fatal. He might also make it plain to the student writer that the decencies of composition (the higher as well as lower) come first; that frankness about comfort-station details and a steady flow of four-letter words have absolutely nothing to do with reality, maleness or the authentic creative touch.

If the teacher of advanced composition succeeds in getting students to see that America today stands in far greater need of first-rate readers than of second- and third-rate fictionists and poets, he will not have stressed straight thinking and accurate reading, at the possible expense of the underpropagation of clever writing, in vain.

WEST HIGHLAND INTERLUDE

By L. A. G. STRONG

THE RAIN had lifted, and everything was still. The sea was pale as a sheet. Grey rain-clouds hung like shawls over the islands, and drew their fringes softly along the horizon. Inland, the mountains were hidden, save for a single dark peak projecting oddly from a motionless mass of cloud. The air was close and warm.

We turned, and for the fifth time rowed slowly past the big sunken rock. It was no use. The fish would not bite.

"Let's stop and have tea. Then we'll try again."

The suggestion was received with relief. The lines were pulled in, and coiled carefully in the

stern, the red rubber eels revolving seductively on the last yard of gut. The best rock on the coast, a dull slag, a perfect tide, bright new eels—and we might as well have been dragging them up and down the bath. It was inexplicable.

Three thermos jugs of tea, marmalade sandwiches, and bannock: there was more than enough for the five of us. We had lost count of time, and discovered that we were very hungry.

"Hullo, Hector. Won't you have anything?"

The old boatman shook his head.

"None today, thank you. None today."

"Why not?"

"No use. I am going to the doctor."

One of the guests, on holiday from Harley Street, looked up sharply. "What's that got to do with it?"

The old man's craggy face was illumined by a sad, indulgent smile. "I losing it."

The guest looked round. "What does he mean?"

"The doctor—he is giving me a medicine. Once a week. Every Friday. The doctor thinks I do not take the medicine. So he is giving me the first dose himself. Every Friday. So I cannot eat."

"I still don't see."

The old man's brow wrinkled as he laboriously translated his thought into the unfamiliar tongue. "The doctor's medicine," he said, "it is turning my stomach. When I come out of his house, I put it by the roadside. And my tea too."

The doctor laughed. "That's bad. What about the rest of the week?"

"Och. That is all right. I am not taking the medicine. I am pouring it on the stones."

"But, man"—medical sense was outraged—"why don't you tell the doctor the medicine doesn't suit you, and get him to make you up another?"

"Och no. He would be angry."

"Not a bit of it. You've only got to tell him the truth. After all, he can't know it doesn't suit you, if you don't tell him, can he? The one thing we want is for our patients to tell us the truth."

"Och no." The old man shook his head, gently amused. "It is not always good to tell the truth."

"But, man, you must tell the truth to your doctor."

"Och no. It is not always good."

"Why not?"

The doctor was getting pink. Hector looked at him for a few seconds without speaking. Once again, he shook his head slowly. "There was—I cannot say it." He turned to the son of his employer. "A father of a grandfather of a grandfather?"

"Ancestor," said the boy quickly.

Hector bowed. "There was an ancestor of my mother learned that it was not good always to tell the truth. Even when you are bidden. He was called Kenneth Mackenzie. He was a singer, and he had the two sights."

"He had what?" asked the doctor.

"Second sight," the boy interpreted.

"Oh! Thought he meant he saw double. Dare-say he did, sometimes, what?"

"He had the second sight," continued the old man. "The laird was away in Europe. One day, the laird's wife called for Kenneth Mackenzie."

"Tell me," she said. "Can you see the laird?"

"So Kenneth shut his eyes, and waited till the half-sleep came to him. When the half-sleep came, he said, 'Yes. I can see the laird.'

"Where is he?" said the laird's wife.

"He is in France, in the town of Rouen," said Kenneth. "He is making his way home."

"That is good news," said the laird's wife. "Tell me more. Can you see what he is doing?"

"Aye," said Kenneth. "I can see what he is doing."

"Well?" said the laird's wife.

"I think," said Kenneth, "I will say no more."

"Indeed and you will," said the laird's wife. "You will tell me the truth."

"Well," said Kenneth. "The laird is in a big room, sitting by the fire."

"Yes?"

"He is with a very beautiful young lady, and she is sitting on his knee."

"What!" said the laird's wife, in great anger. "Do you dare to say such a thing about the laird, you wicked man?" And she called to the people and said, "Bring tar and feathers."

"So they brought tar and feathers, and they stripped Kenneth of his clothes, and put the tar on him, and the feathers."

"Kill me if you will," Kenneth cried to the laird's wife, "but do not dishonor me."

"You dishonored the laird," said the laird's wife, "by speaking lies of him."

"I spake no lies," said Kenneth. "It is the truth."

"What!" the laird's wife cried out; and she took a torch with her own hand, and set a light to Kenneth, and burned him."

There was a silence. The doctor laughed uneasily. "I say. That was pretty tough."

"Presently," the old man resumed, "the laird came home. As soon as he had eaten and drunk, he asked for Kenneth."

"Och," said his wife, "Kenneth is dead." Then, quickly, she came and sat on his knee, and put her arms around his neck. "Do you know what he said about you?" she asked him. "He said that you were coming home through Rouen, in France."

"That is true," said the laird. "I came through Rouen."

"He said you were sitting in a big room, beside a fire."

"Aye," said the laird. "That is so."

"But do you know what he said besides? He said that in the room there was a very beautiful young lady, and she was sitting on your knee."

"Aye," said the laird, and he stroked his beard. "Aye. She was that."

"So," concluded the old man, "it was the truth Kenneth told, and it did him no good to tell it."

He leaned over the side of the boat, spat carefully, and relapsed into aloofness, going at once a hundred miles from those in the boat, his face worn and fissured like a rock, without expression.

The doctor, finishing his tea, studied him surreptitiously for a while, then turned to his host. "I say," he whispered. "Is all that true, or was he pulling our legs?"

Before an answer could be given, something extraordinary happened. There was a sound seaward, and a chill blast of air came suddenly from the northwest. The sea blurred, frowned and rushed chattering angrily toward the boat. The wind caught her, and slewed her violently round. She shied like a living thing. Small waves, concentrated and rapid, slapped her side.

With a petulant, cawing outcry, more like a gull's than a man's, Hector came out of his trance.

"Aaach!" he exclaimed, "that is why there were no fish. Row, Mr. Peter."

The boy seized the other oar, and, between them, they steadied the now plunging boat, and swung her round. Already, after less than a minute, it was blowing hard, and bitterly cold. With exclamations of dismay, the others put away the tea things, and huddled down as best they could from the wind.

They had only half a mile to go, but, before they came in, they were drenched and half frozen. After five minutes or so, the inrush of cold air had condensed the warm cloud-masses, and a pitiless rain whipped the fugitives. Thankfully they reached the little natural harbor, and ran shivering across the fields, to whisky and hot baths.

Meanwhile old Hector, imperturbable, without change of expression, moored the boat, took up the oars, rowlocks and floor boards, hid them safely in a crevice among the rocks, and went off with unhurried step to keep his useless tryst with the village doctor.

Finalities

The air turns golden and is very still;
You will not hear the far-off, faint, forlorn
Music descending from the last tall hill,
The final sounding of the golden horn;
If leaves are shivered, it is this they hear,
Through all the woods intensest listening, now,
Thickens the silence—till the mortal ear
Welcomes the first leaf loosening from the bough. . . .

Knocking among the branches, seeking the ground,
Her final, trivial gesture on the air,
That ends in deeper silence after sound—
And wider silence that you yet must bear,
Through autumn nights of listening long in vain
For the first tentative drumming of the rain.

DAVID MORTON.

A NEW YORK MONASTERY

By JAMES W. LANE

ON NEW YORK CITY'S highest hill is the twelfth-century Gothic monastery which George Grey Barnard, distinguished American sculptor, now seventy-four years old, has just re-created from material in his collection.

It is on the site of the Cloisters. The Cloisters, originally established by Mr. Barnard during the Great War, is gone now, having been bought by Mr. Rockefeller and presented to the Metropolitan Museum, which will open and administer it as a branch attraction in Fort Tryon Park (several blocks away) in the spring of 1938.

Mr. Barnard brought the masterpieces now in the monastery to America in order to show to our school of sculpture, which, as he says, "does not conceive through the chisel," the glories of hand-carved work—capitals, arches, columns, alabaster plaques and statuary—preserved from more than thirty twelfth-century monasteries or cathedrals of France and Flanders.

Thus, you enter the brick-walled structure by a beautiful Gothic arch, which was part of the original one that held the "cross of Auvergne" and was in medieval times the rendezvous for crusaders. You find yourself at once in a hollow square the sides of which are formed by large columns each capped by great and all different capitals, and in the middle of which lies the recumbent mortuary figure of the Crusader Count of the Merles. Farther within, you see the altar.

Nothing is more ghastly than to see unused religious art exhibited in secular surroundings. Auction rooms and museums full of it are like pages of quotations stripped from their context. But when religious objects are as appropriately shown as those collected by Mr. Barnard, the cleavage is lessened.

Mr. George Grey Barnard's "monastery" is not a reconstruction, such as that which is now proceeding at Cluny under the direction of Professor Kenneth Conant of Harvard and the auspices of the French government, for, of the Barnard masterpieces, nearly all come from utterly different places. The only Italian object is a thirteenth-century fresco; everything else is French or Flemish.

Especially lovely is the great Flemish "Cross of Oak" representing, in polychromy, Our Lord Crucified, with Saint John and Our Lady weeping, and two typically Flemish flying angels under each arm of the cross. As a sort of plinth to the composition there is a sculptured pile of bones and skulls done in a greyish wood. Between the cross and the altar there is a very fine polychromed stone statue of Our Lady and Our Infant Lord, both headless, but this is perhaps the finest out of many such statues in wood or marble in the monastery. Particularly impressive is the buoyant if headless relief of Saint Martin in a tympanum saved from a church door destroyed in the French Revolution, reminder of Spain and all-obliterating TNT.

Seven Days' Survey

The Church.—The five new cardinals who will be proclaimed at a Secret Consistory, December 13, and a Public Consistory, December 16, are Archbishop Giuseppe Pizzardo, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs; Archbishop Ermengildo Pellegrinetti, Papal Nuncio to Jugoslavia; Archbishop Arthur Hinsley of Westminster, England; Archbishop Pierre Gerlier of Lyon, France; and Patriarch Adeodato Giovanni Piazza of Venice. * * * The Committee on National Attitudes of the Catholic Association for International Peace has issued two new pamphlets. One distinguishes between modern nationalism and true patriotism; the other cites a number of authorities on the traditional Christian opposition to anti-Semitism. * * * The French Confederation of Professions, which is made up of Catholic employers, and the French Confederation of Christian Workers, an organization of employees, have set up permanent conciliation machinery based on the three great labor encyclicals. * * * A religious survey of every home in the geographical confines of the Archdiocese of St. Louis has been launched with the cooperation of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Someone in every household, Catholic and non-Catholic, will be interviewed. Catholic publications will be sent for six months without cost to non-Catholics desiring them. * * * The Missionary's Intellectual Aid, which was founded at the Oblate Scholasticate at Ottawa, Canada, five years ago, have sent 7,690 books to priests in the missions of Africa, China and Western Canada.

The Nation.—Faced by widespread complaints against the increasing cost of living, the President requested the Federal Trade Commission to start immediately a special study of "monopolistic practises and other unwholesome methods of competition" which may have contributed to the rise. * * * Extended consideration of the executive reorganization bill was blocked in Congress by debates over the anti-lynching bill until November 23. On that day the Senate received a five crop control farm plan for discussion. A week-end conference of political leaders resulted in a definite postponement of congressional action on taxes until the regular session. Then it is possible that laws granting retroactive relief will be passed. * * * A protest by William Green was sufficient to throw the proposed Black-Connery wages and hours bill back from the House to the Labor Committee. * * * The National Bituminous Coal Commission, which started hearings on its problems September 27, at length announced that it would post minimum prices for the entire Appalachian soft coal area, excluding Alabama, on December 1. * * * The Milk Consumers Protective Committee, with the assistance of the American Labor party, assembled milk producers and consumers in New York City to form a program for reducing the spread between what farmers get for milk and what the consumers pay. A milk consumers' cooperative deal-

ing directly with producers' cooperatives was proposed. Also favored at the meeting was the setting up of "municipal yardstick" milk companies.

The Wide World.—Formal announcement was made that Great Britain and the United States had agreed to negotiate an unconditional most-favored trade agreement. A new supplementary reciprocal trade treaty will be negotiated with Canada. * * * The Duke of Guise, pretender to the throne of France, issued a manifesto in which he urged a restoration of the monarchy that was overthrown at the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. French royalists were believed to number less than 50,000. Following the discovery of a reported plot by a secret society known as the **Cagouards (the Hooded Ones)** against the State, Premier Chautemps and his Cabinet obtained a 399-160 vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies. * * * Viscount Halifax, British Lord President of the Council, returned to London. The general impression is that his interview with Hitler produced no tangible results. * * * Chancellor Hitler, in an address in Augsburg before the Swabian section of the National Socialist party, declared that he did not expect a settlement of Germany's colonial claims for five or six years but that Germany would one day become a great empire "not because of political ambition but because of vital necessity." * * * The Nationalist offensive in Spain was reported delayed because of bad weather and in the hope that political strife in the Loyalist government would provide a more opportune moment for a decisive victory. * * * King Victor Emmanuel appointed the Duke of Aosta, a prince of the House of Savoy, Viceroy of Ethiopia, replacing Marshal Graziani. Premier Mussolini took over the ministry for Italian Africa.

* * * *

Brazil.—The new Constitution proclaimed by President Getulio Vargas confers **extraordinary powers on the Executive**. He may promulgate laws by decree when authorized to do so by Parliament. He may nominate a candidate for the Presidency to succeed himself, at the end of his term of six years. He may dissolve the lower house of Parliament by decree. The new Constitution augments the power of the central government and diminishes the powers of the twenty states. State executives become, in effect, officials of the central government, although elected by their own constituents. The judicial system is reorganized so that the former federal judges, one of whom sat in each state, become justices of a court of appeals, with the Supreme Tribunal as a court of last resort. The legislative branch is composed of a representative house, which is not elected directly by the people; a Federal Council (the former Senate), elected by the lower house; and a Council of National Economy, with only advisory powers. This latter council is made up of

twenty-five employers and twenty-five employees, elected by their respective syndicates and associations. In other respects the Constitution generally follows the usual outline of democratic countries, with a bill of rights and equal status before the law for Brazilians and foreigners.

The Philippines.—When Senator Millard Tydings journeyed to Manila three years ago to present the constitutional convention with the economic consequences of political independence, his comprehensive statistics showed that 60 percent of the agricultural produce of the islands was shipped to the United States duty free. But the desire for independence was too strong. Even today Manuel Quezon, the Philippine leader, says he is in favor of immediate independence rather than the 1946 date set by the Tydings-McDuffie act. However, he revealed in a recent press conference that there is considerable sentiment for a dominion status and demanded that this proposal be brought out into the open. Business men in Manila, alarmed at the extent of the Japanese successes, are among those strongly favoring the plan; they are also appalled by the prospect of high tariff duties. The *Manila Daily-Bulletin*, for instance, is calling for the drawing up of a sound dominion plan. On the other hand, fear of Japan has not dimmed strong native sentiment for independence. To quote a recent editorial from the *Manila Herald*, "Judging from four decades of association with the Philippines, America never would grant Filipinos those rights that might eventually overcome, or at least minimize, the difference in race; American citizenship that would entitle the Filipinos to the freedom and rights of Americans in the United States and its territories, and social equality which the Negro has not succeeded in achieving since the days of Abraham Lincoln." The joint committee preparing the steps to independence was split over the question of export duties and has adjourned until early in 1938. Japanese successes have made Washington very unreceptive to the dominion idea, since American defense of the Philippines would be highly impractical.

Labor.—The great lumber industry in Portland, Ore., had been tied up for about 100 days by the contest between the C.I.O. and the A. F. of L. and the National Labor Relations Board had failed to effect any settlement last week when a new concerted local drive to peace was undertaken under the governor of the state. Meanwhile the mayor of the city was berating the NLRB at a conference in Washington, D. C. The Goodyear plant at Akron was struck for three days by a sit-down movement which threw 12,000 men out of work. A settlement was reached granting concessions to the strikers. In this affair Governor Davey, again arranging to call out the National Guard, became even more unpopular with the labor unions. Members of the United Automobile Workers Union caused the third sit-down strike in a General Motors plant since negotiations for a new contract broke down earlier in the month. The strike was disavowed by the union officials and no funds were appropriated for food for the strikers. After 14,721 workers had been affected for several days Governor Murphy threatened to

clear the plant with the state militia, and President Martin of the union succeeded in calling off the strike. The Martin-Frankensteen régime within the union was very apparently meeting strong opposition, and asserted its authority only with the greatest difficulty. This opposition is by no means new, and it was evident at the last meeting of C.I.O. leaders at Atlantic City that it is not confined to members of the U.A.W.A.

China.—Japan continued to push toward Nanking along a 200-mile front. The important city of Soochow fell, according to Japanese spokesmen, without the firing of a shot. Japanese gunboats are sailing up the Yangtze for an unannounced destination, presumably Nanking. Civilians joined government officials in their flight and the Central Government announced that its new capital would be Chunking, hundreds of miles deep in the interior. Because it lies in an inner vault under several heavy layers of marble and concrete, the body of Sun Yat-sen, who was the symbol of China's national reawakening, will be left in its imposing mausoleum when the Japanese march into Nanking. Reports indicate that the Chinese troops are badly disorganized. They are so worn by the strain of forced marches that they are offering little resistance. There is talk of lack of cooperation between the various Chinese generals and their supply lines have broken down. In the North the Japanese push against Tsinan, the capital of Shantung, has been halted by heavy rains and swollen streams, while Chinese frantically worked on the city's strong defenses. With the failure of the Brussels Conference, Germany appeared to be the only mediator who could offer the Chinese any hope of restraining the Japanese ambitions, which have expanded as a result of their military successes. Spokesmen for the Municipal Council of Shanghai indicated their willingness to comply with a series of Japanese demands that anti-Tokyo activities be ended in the International Settlement and the French Concession. Another instance of Japanese confidence was the disclosure that they had threatened seizure of an island off Indo-China if the French allowed munitions to reach the Chinese through that Far Eastern colony. The new Japanese budget of 5,000,000,000 yen was drawn up on a war-time basis.

N.C.W.C.—The reports submitted to the general meeting of the American hierarchy in Washington indicated that virtually every facility of the various departments and bureaus of the National Catholic Welfare Conference was speeded up, during the past year, to meet extraordinary burdens placed upon them by world conditions. A youth bureau was established as a fact-finding agency on the whole field of youth work. More than three hundred priests were assigned to watch over the spiritual health of youths in CCC camps. During the past school term, a total of 9,299 students received college aid in 180 Catholic educational institutions. The monthly allotment for these students was \$138,435 for nine months, or a total of \$1,245,915. Included were 134 graduate students in 10 Catholic universities who received a total monthly allotment of \$2,010. A new attendance record

of 128,423 students in colleges and universities was achieved. Fifty-eight teaching positions were filled through the Teachers' Registration Bureau. The Social Action Department reported a year of intensive work in all parts of the country. Twelve new diocesan directors of Rural Life were appointed. Forty-eight new study clubs and several evidence guilds were organized. Increased interest in the Catholic Hour was indicated by the receipt of 25,700 pieces of audience mail. Women's conferences were held in 45 dioceses. Sixty-one students were enrolled in the School of Social Service. The Bureau of Immigration aided 12,348 immigrants and emigrants at ports and assisted with the naturalization of 882 aliens.

Anti-Lynching.—Until November 23 the Senate devoted the time of the special session to consideration of the Wagner-Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill. At that time the farm bill was hastily reported and taken up. There was a distinct impression of hidden meaning to the debates, or, perhaps, filibuster, which Washington correspondents variously interpreted. Last session it had been resolved, in order to avoid a filibuster, that the Senate in its next session would first consider farm legislation and immediately after that the anti-lynching bill. Since the farm bill was not ready when Congress convened, the anti-lynching bill was suddenly put on the floor by Senator Wagner, in spite of the fact that many Senators felt one of the other four points set by the President for the special session should be taken up, particularly the executive reorganization bill sponsored by Senator Byrnes. The Southerners accused the bill's northern sponsors of going on a vote-catching expedition, and proceeded to block the bill in the effective way they did several times in the past. Senator Connally of Texas brilliantly led the tortuous parliamentary proceedings, his skill pitted especially against Senator Clark of Missouri, a most learned parliamentarian who tried to enforce rules so strictly that the filibuster would be cut off, and who posted on the Senate bulletin board photographs of lynchings. To what extent these proceedings represented a serious split in the Democratic party was not clear. Mark Sullivan wrote of the bill as an attempt by "‘radicals’ to turn America into a centralized, one-man, totalitarian government." Senator Clark, confusingly, is not considered a strong New Dealer.

Housing.—It became apparent that the administration was trying to work out a very large-scale private housing drive, and the President was expected to deliver a special message to Congress on the subject at any time. Conferences were held by government officials and the biggest business men of the country, and the RFC and the FHA worked on new financing plans. The administrator of the Wagner Housing Act called a conference of local housing officials to work out final methods to get his program under way. Problems of local finance proved most stubborn, as did certain definitions, such as for the word "room." Labor Department figures covering building during the first nine months of the year showed dwelling units were provided in new buildings for 167,216 families in the entire urban area of the country, an increase of ap-

proximately 20,000 units or 13 percent as compared with the corresponding period of 1936. At a conference on local residential construction held in Washington, a representative of the National Resources Committee presented the objectives of the committee's urban program: (1) Improvement of standards of urban life and raising of level of living conditions. (2) Abolition of slums; restating conservation in urban terms of human values. (3) Organized system of urban reporting and research. (4) Better-planned locations for industry, by study of land use, industrial organization, fiscal policy, transportation and power policy. (5) Urban preparedness to meet insecurity and unemployment.

Non-Catholic Religious Activities.—The two principal religious film societies of Great Britain have come to an agreement. The Cinema Christian Council and the Religious Film Society have agreed to a rearrangement of duties between the two bodies. All work dealing with propaganda among the Protestant Churches in connection with religious films and the attempt to bring the influence of the churches to bear upon the cinema as a whole will be undertaken by the Cinema Christian Council, the president of which is the Archbishop of Canterbury. The work of production, distribution and hiring of films and the supply of apparatus and accessories will be carried out by the Religious Film Society, whose new studio was recently opened. * * * Charles H. Tuttle, president of the Greater New York Federation of Churches, speaking before 2,500 teachers attending the annual luncheon of the Protestant Teachers Association, warned his audience against the danger of following "false prophets," who have set up ideals of hate, intolerance, darkness and oppression. He said, "We think it can't happen here, but it is happening here. It takes no prophet to declare that unless we can meet the challenge of false prophets the war on Christianity will be brought visibly before us." Believing that an "outburst of faith" is the only method to stave off a collapse of the civilized world, and that no other road will lead to truth, liberty, peace and brotherhood, Mr. Tuttle declared, "There is still time, but the time is getting short. If the Protestant Church can make an unselfish contribution, with the love of the city in its heart, with no ulterior purpose, with affection and co-operation for all, we hope that the light that may be lit here can kindle forces elsewhere." * * * The proposal of Nashville ministers representing seventeen different sects that the city observe Christmas with a "Family Sunday" is catching the people's imagination there as the various pastors go forward with their plans for the occasion.

Boats and Flying-boats.—In a report to Congress on aviation, Chairman Joseph P. Kennedy of the Maritime Commission recommended loans for the building of aircraft for the foreign trade up to 75 percent of the cost of these machines and a system putting transoceanic flying under the supervision of the Maritime Commission rather than under the Interstate Commerce Commission. The report indicated that flying boats now under design will be able to render service comparable to that of the Nor-

mandie or Queen Mary at much lower cost. In comparing the dirigible of the "Hindenburg" type with the airship, the commission asserted that "there appears to be no question of the great value of heavier-than-air flying boats, both commercially and as naval auxiliaries. But since there remains some question of the commercial value of dirigible airships, a statement from the navy of their value for national defense is desirable to warrant their further construction." As an alternative to the proposal to lend money to shipping or air transport companies for the building of aircraft, the report suggests that the government itself might undertake the building of the first few as an impetus to the development of our foreign air commerce.

Prize for Peace.—After two meetings the Nobel Peace Prize committee announced from Stockholm that its 1937 award of 158,000 Swedish kroner (\$40,700) went to Lord Cecil of Chelwood, strong supporter of the League of Nations, instead of to Secretary Cordell Hull, whose name had been proposed by several Latin-American nations. Edgar Algernon Robert Cecil, son of the third Marquis of Salisbury, was educated at Eton and University College, Oxford. After two years as secretary to his father, he was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1887, at the age of twenty-three. Some twenty years later he became a Member of Parliament for the Conservative party. He was appointed Parliamentary Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs in 1915, Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs three years later. With Woodrow Wilson and General Smuts of South Africa, Lord Cecil is credited with the drafting of the Covenant of the League of Nations. For the past twenty years he has been active in the League Assembly and the Council. In 1935, Lord Cecil organized a peace ballot in which 40 percent of the British electorate participated and voiced their opposition to military and naval aircraft and the private manufacture of armaments. However, he recently upheld the huge British rearmament program in the House of Lords. During the past two years he has been active in relief work for German refugees. Since 1918 Lord Cecil has been chancellor of Birmingham University; he was rector of Aberdeen University from 1924-1927.

National Municipal League.—The National Municipal League meeting in Rochester, N. Y., provided interesting theoretic and practical discussions, November 18 and 19. President Dodds of Princeton told the convention: "Because all government at bottom rests on naked force, restoration of social participation cannot be brought about by expanding the rôle of government in this field. It is a job for citizens working on voluntary lines on a basis of consent and not through coercive action. . . . The task of industry is to devise ways by which the job will satisfy the instinct for adequate social living. Failing this, the mass of mankind will seek it through political activity such as is current in Europe today." President Dykstra of Wisconsin, former City Manager of Cincinnati, said that "the public business is now so all-embracing, it comprehends so many skills and it requires for its sustenance such a large share of the national income, that

nothing short of a career service will care for our common needs in any adequate fashion." Reports showed that the city manager plan is in operation in 466 American cities, and that 150 more are at present studying the plan. The idea of extending it to state government was discussed. One day was spent considering the relief problem, most importantly the problem of financing relief. Miss Dorothy C. Kahan of Philadelphia outlined her program of dealing with unemployment by public works: "The work program of the future must be based upon realistic understanding of occupation surpluses and the work that needs to be done. Such work would be done not on a relief basis only but on a basis of skills and there should be federal grants in aid for the program. . . . There must be planning on a wide basis for a five-to-fifty-year program." Commissioner Hodson of New York said: "We have relied on relief as our fortress against the hazards of life, but I hope that the trend will be changed in the direction of social insurances so as to provide these things as a right."

Georgia and Florida.—While Governor Cone of Florida told the New York press that people who come to Florida and try to overthrow the government will be "hung to a tree" or "ridden out on a rail," Governor Rivers of Georgia was encouraging study of and inviting reports on the prison labor problem in Georgia. In Miami today the words of the Governor are bearing fruit. On the night of November 15, a band of robed men and women, estimated at from 100 to 175, raided a night club, assaulted entertainers, smashed furniture and, club attachés said, stole \$360 and a watch. Earlier in the evening the Klan had conducted a public initiation for 150 in a city-owned park while three crosses blazed. According to Captain George J. Garcia of Jacksonville, Grand Dragon of Florida, "Some of the best people in Miami are members of the Klan," and there is evidence, some citizens say, that the quality of membership is much better now than in 1925. All this goes to show that the Klan is truly out in the open. So much for the dark side of the ledger. In Georgia, the report on prison labor conditions and problems by Dr. Louis N. Robinson, chairman of the Prison Industries Reorganization Board, has taken a definite step forward to end the Georgia chain gang and place the penal system of the state among the most progressive in the country. The report calls for establishment of certain state-use prison industries to aid in rehabilitation of prisoners, careful classification of inmates, development of modern state-operated road camps, better housing and medical care, vocational training and improved methods of commitment and release. "In 1908, the people of Georgia insisted upon abolishing the prison leasing to private contractors, although it lost for them well over \$1,000,000 a year from the income in leases. Today Georgia again is moving to keep abreast of modern trends in prison methods and a new deal is in sight for the 4,000 felons and 3,000 or more misdemeanants in the Georgia camps." The first step toward the reorganization of the Georgia penal system was taken when the Reidsville institution was built for the state by the Public Works Administration.

The Play and Screen

Julius Caesar

IN THE production of "Julius Caesar" as the opening play of the new Mercury Theatre, Orson Welles once more proves himself America's most exciting young director. Despite his youth Mr. Welles understands the tradition of the Shakespearean stage, but knowing that we have few actors trained in that tradition he realizes that to vitalize Shakespearean tragedy he must vitalize the production. What he has done in "Julius Caesar" will be anathema to the hidebound traditionalist, but a delight to those who believe in the classic drama as a living force. His is not merely a "Julius Caesar" in modern dress; it is a study of the tragedy of liberalism overwhelmed by the Fascist spirit. That this is a stretching of the intention of Shakespeare may be true, and yet his lines lend themselves, at least to a certain point, to this interpretation. And in interpreting them thus Mr. Welles has produced a drama of extraordinary force and poignancy. How has he accomplished it? In the first place by the acting. Mr. Welles's own Brutus is a baffled, somewhat bewildered liberal, not the man of action of the great actors who have played it in the past, but primarily a dreamer, noble in his ideals, intellectual, introspective. The Cassius of Martin Gabel is the mordant active radical, far from honest either personally or intellectually, by his cleverness and force dominating his nobler friend; the Marc Antony of George Coulouris is the cynical politician and orator; the Caesar of Joseph Holland, a youthful Mussolini. Surrounding them both as a sort of chorus and also a driving force is the Roman mob, half revolutionary and half Fascist.

Excellent as are the individual actors, and especially Mr. Welles for the quiet but beautifully clear reading of his lines, and Mr. Holland for his dominant personality and magnificent voice, the chief protagonist is the mob. It is this that makes the production memorable and different from all others. Played without scenery, against the brick walls of the theatre itself, by his magnificent use of lights Mr. Welles has accomplished miraculous things. Though there is no division into acts, the performance being without break, there is never a moment when the interest flags. The feeling of cumulative terror comes to a superb synthesis in the murder by the mob of Cinna the Poet, a scene which for power and sinister meaning has never been surpassed in the American theatre. Oddly enough the murder of Caesar himself is the disappointing moment of the play, this and the omitting of the scene of Caesar's ghost. But these are minor defects in a production of extraordinary imaginative power. Mr. Welles has made of "Julius Caesar" a modern human document, and if at times some of his actors sacrifice the beauty of the lines, they never sacrifice the meaning. Moreover, even the voices in the mob are individual and alive. In short, "Julius Caesar" is a splendid beginning for what promises to be the most exciting adventure in the modern American theatre. (At the Mercury Theatre.)

Madame Bovary

THE THEATRE GUILD both in its casting and its scenic investiture has put its best foot forward in Benn W. Levy's adaptation of Gaston Baty's dramatization of Flaubert's novel. Constance Cummings gives a varied and colorful impersonation of Emma Bovary, Harold Vermilyea is properly middle-class yet poignant as her husband, Ernest Cossart is an amusing Homais, Ernest Thesiger a sinister Lheureux, Eric Portman a masculine Rodolphe, and Carl Harbord excellent as Leon, while Lee Simonson has never executed more effective settings and costumes. The play itself is less successful, as in attempting to throw sympathy toward Emma the dramatists have falsified her character as expressed in the novel, with the result that at times her actions are scarcely understandable. Flaubert's Emma was romantic, but she was also stupid; as written by the playwrights and played by Miss Cummings she is glamorous. Also the multiplicity of scenes do not make for conformity of development. Yet those who like good acting will find pleasure in the evening. (At the Broadhurst Theatre.)

GRENVILLE VERNON.

A Damsel in Distress

OCCASIONALLY there is marked entertainment in this Fred Astaire-George Burns-Gracie Allen musical comedy, but the markings are not nearly as distinct, nor do they appear as frequently as in some of Astaire's previous plays. This is the first time he stars alone, and it may be said that Ginger Rogers is missed as his co-starring partner. The music is tuneful, the comedy not always so. Burns and Allen are—Burns and Allen. Supporting players appear to lack enthusiasm. The story sends Astaire, playing as the dancing sensation of the day, to the romantic rescue of Joan Fontaine, who is virtually a prisoner in an English castle at the hands of her aunt. Highlight, funwise, is the visit of the three top players to a carnival and their antics before distortion mirrors. Mr. Astaire's dancing is all that would be expected of this nimblefooted one.

The Barrier

PRODUCTIONWISE, "The Barrier" is somewhat of a glorified outdoor adventure, from the novel of Rex Beach, affording plentiful opportunities for achieving some splendid, even intriguing rugged north country backgrounds. The story, told in films for the third time, previous productions having been done silently, has not changed appreciably, although it is established in a more modern setting. It centers around prospectors in the Alaskan gold mining community of Flambeau, as it existed in the 90's of the Klondike rush. The "barrier" is the half-breed blood of a beautiful girl who is loved by a young army officer. Developments disclose that she was really an orphaned white girl, and the inevitable marriage fade-out follows. The story has its limitations, but the photographic backgrounds are a distinct factor in creating such qualities as the play possesses, with condensation aiding further.

JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM.

Communications

PARENTS AND PAGANISM

Detroit, Mich.

TO the Editor: A thousand tributes to Blanche Jennings Thompson. In your November 19 issue she broached a subject which is one of the most deplorable in our modern set-up. Endless volumes could and should be written in this direction. Most significant of all dangers to modern civilization in this country is the condition of the reading matter which is sold on the street news-stands. In numbers of our larger cities campaigns are under way to check the turbulent tide of lewd and indecent literature. However, without the enlightenment Blanche Thompson has obviously attempted to portray any success in this direction would only be temporary.

A great deal of work is necessary in this field. It is not an easy job or one to be taken lightly. It is my most firm belief that the real danger does not lie in the more objectionable type of magazine known as the "pulp mag" but in the higher class magazine which has so profitably received the endorsement of the principal advertisers of this country. THE COMMONWEAL like other respectable publications of its kind might well enter this crusade as part of its policy. Again my compliments to Blanche Jennings Thompson and to THE COMMONWEAL.

JOHN ALLEN.

New York, N. Y.

TO the Editor: THE COMMONWEAL is to be congratulated on publishing "Parents and Paganism" (November 19) by Blanche Jennings Thompson. The author has expressed in terse, forthright language that which some of us would like to say and are not able to say convincingly and clearly.

The picture Miss Thompson has painted is not done in exaggerated color. It is not a Turner. Things "really are that bad."

It is to be hoped that something will be done about our movies, our songs, our magazines. But, I am of a somewhat pessimistic and sceptical turn of mind. It does seem so difficult to attempt to influence people.

May THE COMMONWEAL continue to publish such stimulating, honest articles as Miss Thompson's "Parents and Paganism."

CHARLES WILLIAM PHILLIPS.

Washington, D. C.

TO the Editor: "Parents and Paganism" by Blanche Jennings Thompson is so timely and to the point, that I wish copies of it could be sent to parents of all Catholic children, from kindergarten to college. Bishop Schrembs in an address to the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae used the same method of calling a spade a spade, reminding the mothers that they had lived through the fires of temptation and should realize the dangers that threaten the immortal souls of their children.

CLARA DOUGLAS SHEERAN.

A LAYMAN'S LAMENT

New Haven, Conn.

TO the Editor: Mr. Traboulsee's amazing sneers at the liturgy in his "Layman's Lament" (in the November 19 issue) must not go unrebuked.

To say that the "liturgical appeal is too exotic," that "the liturgy is an orchid," and so forth, is, in the first place, to contradict the experience of thousands of Catholics, clerical and lay, including myself. For fifteen years I have labored to develop the liturgical spirit, with dignified ceremonial and amid surroundings of beauty, in a small suburban mission. Its faithful, being working people of largely foreign origin, might be described as "exotic" in that sense, but they are about as orchidaceous as turnips. They have not yet been transformed into a group composed exclusively of saints, but if Mr. Traboulsee thinks that these "earthy" and sometimes nearly "starving" Christians have not benefited spiritually by sharing in their liturgical birthright, let him come and see.

His remarks, moreover, show a spirit far more deplorable than the quaint though common delusion that the liturgical movement is the fad of a few anemic semi-Anglican highbrows. The statement that "the emphasis in Catholic Action should be on organization," if it means, as its context implies, that personal sanctification and the liturgy are secondary and can wait till a "Kingdom of God upon earth" has been established by legislation, is a piece of unblushing naturalism so flagrant in its opposition to "the mind of the encyclical and the Gospels" that the citation of texts is superfluous.

Economic and industrial reform, with wise legislation for the furtherance of these ends, are indeed essentials of Catholic Action, as the Gospels imply and the encyclicals explicitly teach. But if they are to be made primary aims in a sense that brushes aside the call to holiness and sneers at the liturgy, we might as well all become Marxians. If corporate prayer is an exotic orchid, why not call it an opiate of the people and have done with it?

REV. T. LAWRASON RIGGS.

Anoka, Minn.

TO the Editor: It would seem to me that in a general way there is much to be said for the view set forth in "A Layman's Lament" in the November 19 issue of THE COMMONWEAL. But the author's reference to the liturgical appeal as "exotic" ought not, however, to go unchallenged. Had he said that certain writers on the subject of the liturgy are at times esoteric he might have been closer to the truth. But the statement that the liturgical appeal is "exotic" does not seem to be at all justifiable.

JUAN QUIRRE.

THE TABLOIDS

Eagle, Wis.

TO the Editor: The comments elicited by your news feature on the *Catholic Herald-Citizen* of Milwaukee, appearing in your issue of October 29, have been most thought-provoking, but your correspondents seem more concerned with the question of the merits and demerits of the tabloid in its secular habitat, and have hardly

touched upon the application of the tabloid technique to the religious press. As a reader of the weekly in question, I wonder if I may be permitted a few remarks on a subject on which there well may be a legitimate divergence of opinion.

Throughout the ages, as we all know, the Church has, with admirable foresight and justifiable results, adopted whatever helpful and appropriate means have been at hand to enable it to fulfil its mission, never hesitating to avail itself of the best fruits of the science and art of the times, dipping into the accumulated heritage of a pre-Christian era in order to erect a philosophical system of its own. In an age marked by scientific discovery and its practical application, we find the present Pontiff turning repeatedly to the wireless to convey his message to the entire Catholic world. In this continual process, the Church fashions, adapts, refines that which she appropriates, and the result, stamped with her own genius, is very often for all intents and purposes an original creation.

Unfortunately for religious news, the adoption of the tabloid technique, due to the nature of the medium itself, results not in a transformation of that which has been adopted, but of the Church's own materials, in the form of a rampant secularization of everything to which it is applied. And the results give cause seriously to think. It is an axiom of good journalism, even the modern, progressive kind, that a dignified theme deserves a dignified treatment. What will be the effect on the laity, if not a continuing diminution of a spirit of reverence concerning things religious, when it finds even the religious news it reads published in the racy idiom of the day? To go a bit further, what has already happened to the laity, and the tremendous investment that has been made in its education, with the hope, among other things, of quickening a sense of values, when it becomes necessary to resort to modern streamlining in order to insure a reception for religious news? All our strictures on the venality and luridness of the modern press become vitiated when we pay that press the tacit compliment of imitation.

A surrender to mass psychology has given us a puerile art and will give us a cheap and trivial journalism. The spirit of the times calls for no capitulation to a light-hearted expediency if the Church is to continue to be a bulwark of culture and good taste as well as religion. And there is a vital connection between all these things.

JOHN A. AGATHEN.

INVIOABLE PERSONS

Dorchester, Mass.

TO the Editor: In THE COMMONWEAL, October 22, you paid high tribute to Walter Lippmann for the sincerity of his spirit, the clearness of his reasoning and other good qualities. That would be very nice for Walter Lippmann a few years ago when we swallowed hook, line and sinker most of what we read in the secular press.

For several years I read all of Mr. Lippmann's articles in the Boston *Globe*. Under date of October 15, 1936, he wrote something like this (I have mislaid the clipping): "Trying to understand money, its function and regulation, is like a little boy in a dark room looking for

a black cat that is not there." Further on he said that a certain small group had made a gentleman's agreement to manage our currency without, according to Mr. Lippmann, knowing all the facts or being certain of the principles. That may indicate sincerity of spirit and clearness of reasoning to you, but to me it is not only silly and stupid but the most barefaced, vicious propaganda for the money changers.

If Mr. Lippmann was sincere in writing that article he is inexcusably ignorant of a rather simple and vitally important question. But of course I believe he is thoroughly conversant with the money racket put over on us all those years: how with their private control of money and credit, the international money changers pulled depressions, wars, etc., on the unsuspecting American public, all the while feeding us with that asinine mystery stuff about money.

In an article of recent date in the Boston *Globe* entitled, "Where Are We—What Must We Do," he endeavors to tell us the cause of the depression now crawling upon us; goes through some strange mental gymnastics to prove nothing. We who know the real shameful cause of this and all other depressions have nothing but contempt for his worm-eaten commercialized economic philosophy. He also accuses the government of having a net surplus which he thinks no government should have during a depression, he suggests they should spend a little more or tax a little less. Perhaps you can follow his reasoning, it is too deep for me.

No, you cannot sell us "The Good Society" but you certainly gave Walter Lippmann a lot of good advertising which he does not deserve. We want editors to know that the United States is our beloved country and that we intend to have a say in the conduct of its affairs, be it packing the Supreme Court with Ku Kluxers, declaring war on aggressors 7,000 miles away who are spoiling some of the British bankers' plans, or fining and jailing farmers who dare to plant or sow too much vegetables or grain. This is going to be a fight to the finish.

I. C. MULLINS.

LITERARY NOTES ON LORD ACTON

Webster Groves, Mo.

TO the Editor: Congratulations on the splendid "Literary Notes on Lord Acton," in your issue of November 19. Mr. Lally has done a yeoman critical service in indicating the true worth and stature of a great historian who has received much praise but more blame—both emanating from those who have not taken the trouble to read his works.

CYRIL CLEMENS.

Editor's Note: In our review of Books for Young America, in the issue of November 19, we erroneously attributed "Hurrah's Nest," by Richard Summers, to the publishing firm of Thomas Nelson and Sons. The book was published by the Vanguard Press (\$2.00). Also in this review "Do You Like to Open Packages?" attributed to Catherine Robb, is written by Catherine Beebe and illustrated by Robb Beebe (Nelson, \$1.00).

Rooks

On the European Stage

Great Contemporaries, by Right Honorable Winston Churchill. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$4.00.

THE HISTORY of the last forty years marches panoramically through the pages of this book. The chief actors in the great drama of Europe are here and, through the brief sketches of their careers, we see the moving events of the most eventful period in the world's history.

The Right Honorable Winston Churchill has included in his reminiscences of "Great Contemporaries," the leading British statesmen, beginning with Lord Rosebery, and including Joseph Chamberlain, Asquith, Birkenhead, Balfour, Curzon, Morley, Snowden and King George V; the great English Generals, Sir John French and Earl Haig; George Bernard Shaw, from the literary field; and from the Continent, the ex-Kaiser, Hindenburg, Foch, Hitler, Trotsky, Alfonso XIII, Clemenceau, the mysterious Lawrence of Arabia and the Russian, Savinkov. There are no Americans included in the list.

The author has been amongst them and has known most, if not all, of them. He has been, himself, a battler at the front in public affairs in which these men have been engaged. He has fought for these men and against them. The list represents men of all parties with whom Winston Churchill served at home and abroad. Extremes of political doctrine are represented from Trotsky to Hitler and Philip Snowden to Arthur Balfour.

It might be supposed that a partizan of the intensity of Churchill could not do justice to these men whose doctrines he ardently applauded or thoroughly despised, yet the sketches are, with few exceptions, fair in their judgment while being incisive in their interpretation. They are not written by a partizan for partizans. It appears rather that the author rose to calm heights and gave interpretations for the benefit of history and not for any partizan advantage.

Some of the judgments expressed indicate the character of the book. Of Mr. Asquith he said: "Mr. Asquith was probably one of the greatest peace-time prime ministers we have ever had. His intellect, his sagacity, his broad outlook and civic courage maintained him at the highest eminence in public life. But in war he had not those qualities of resource and energy, of pre-vision and assiduous management, which ought to reside in the executive."

Of Hindenburg, the author speaks well down to the time of his dismissal of Bruening and his yielding to Hitler. But he offered the excuse that Hindenburg had become senile: "He did not understand what he was doing. He could not be held physically, mentally or morally responsible for opening the flood-gates of evil upon German, and perhaps upon European, civilization. We may be sure that the renowned veteran had no motive but love of country. That he did his best with declining mental strength to cope with problems never before presented to a ruler."

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Of Alfonso: "Courage, physical and moral, King Alfonso has proved on every occasion of personal danger or political stress." And speaking to the Spanish: "May they not soon regard the reign of Alfonso XIII as a happy age—now gone, if not forever, at least for a generation? Should that mood come, then the work done by the King and the peace he kept at home amid difficulties now obvious to the world, will win a more just judgment than has yet been accorded."

"What manner of man is this grim figure (Hitler) who has performed these superb toils and loosed these frightful evils? . . . Evidently a burning question for men of all nations. . . . The world lives on hopes that the worst is over, and that we may yet live to see Hitler a gentler figure in a happier age. . . . Only time can show, but, meanwhile, the great wheels revolve; the rifles, the cannon, the tanks, the shot and shell, the air-bombs, the poison gas cylinders, the airplanes, the submarines, and now the beginning of a fleet flow in ever-broadening streams from the already largely war-mobilized arsenals and factories of Germany."

Trotsky comes in for the severest criticism: "He will perhaps have leisure to contemplate his handiwork. No one could wish him a better punishment than that his life should be prolonged, and that his keen intelligence and restless spirit should corrode each other in impotence and stultification. Indeed, we may foresee a day when his theories, exploded by their application, will have ceased even to be irritating to the acting, hopeful world outside. . . . It may be that in these future years he will find as little comfort in the work which he has done, as his father found in the son he had begotten."

The author states that he had written these sketches over the last eight years, but had made some changes and had "softened a few judgments or expressions before admitting them to a permanent record."

This review is history at its best. Around these men revolved tremendous events of history. The book brings home strikingly the greatness of the group of strong men who have been upon the European stage during these last forty years. Through their lives may be read the story of the evolution of the western world, from the period when democracy became ascendant in Europe through the World War and to the times of darkness under dictatorships.

JOHN A. LAPP.

Three Uneasy Years

And Then the Storm, by Sister M. Monica. New York: Longmans, Green and Company. \$2.50.

SISTER MONICA'S very timely book on Spain embraces three achievements; first, a general appreciation of Francisco de Toledo, fifth viceroy of Peru; second, a revealing glimpse of scenic and historic Spain, the Spain of pilgrimages, ancient cathedrals and marble palaces; and lastly a few significant aspects of those tragic events which preceded the Civil War.

The "dour Toledo" put to death Tupac Amarn and has been denounced for this alleged injustice ever since.

The author's persistent efforts to follow the turbulent career of this enigmatic administrator are outlined with the liveliest good humor. The Archives of the Indies, she remarks casually, would take the wind out of anyone's sails. Her descriptions of many of the churches, monasteries, historical buildings and libraries must substitute for viewing the originals which have been destroyed or may suffer destruction during the present upheaval.

But the greatest value of the book lies in its candid presentation of the daily life of the people during the three uneasy years before the war. It successfully bridges the gap between the dim romantic conception we had of Spain and the horrible picture of conflict and hatred related in the press today. Sister Monica spent some time in residence in Madrid, Seville and Toledo. She had friends and willing guides in members of the aristocracy yet actually lived in convents where the children of workers, peasants and the unemployed were taught. She felt in Madrid the repercussions of the Asturian revolt and was in Seville at the time of the murder of Pedro Carvaca, president of the Economic Federation of Andalusia. She viewed the influence of Catholic Action and of Communism on the youth of Spain. Daily attendance at Mass gave her an index of devotion among the people of all classes. She ably and judiciously reports the progress of the movement which aimed at social redress, the movement that was, most unfortunately, sufficiently tardy to permit Marxism to poison the minds of the worker and the unemployed. The book is well worth reading.

JOHN J. O'CONNOR.

Satire and Nostalgia

A Letter to Robert Frost and Others, by Robert Hillyer. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$2.00.

THE LETTER forms in which Robert Hillyer has cast these poems simultaneously removes and creates obstacles for the poet. For in a letter one may permissibly ramble, touching on a variety of subjects without any particular concern about their relationship to one another. Yet poetry demands unity and if Mr. Hillyer had sought for that quality, even in the compass of the letter form, he would have eliminated many of the weaknesses of his work and inevitably strengthened its virtues. This would particularly have been true of the satirical force which is evident in brief flashes. His satire provides the most brilliant passages, and one regrets he did not choose to make it the dominant factor.

Inevitably the poet has given even more than the usual personal stamp to this work. And not strangely, the reader is apt to become more interested in Robert Hillyer than in his poetry. Such an analysis must affect the latter's criticism. Thus one finds the poet trapped between nostalgia for the past and a discontent with very much of the present. He has seemingly not found that on which he may cheerfully expend himself. Satire must lose force if it descends to sneers, if it does not come from one who is certain at least of some of the ground on which he himself stands.

JOHN GILLAND BRUNINI.

World Peace

Prelude to Peace, A Realistic View of International Relations, by Henry A. Atkinson. New York: Harper and Brothers. \$2.00.

IN THIS small volume of 190 pages the main problems besetting the path of world peace are discussed with intelligence and refreshing candor. Such questions as disarmament—which the author feels is the main weapon against war—sanctions on aggressor nations, access to raw materials, the phenomenon of nationalism, education's rôle in developing a peace-minded generation, and the place of religion in this struggle, find place in its chapters. There are eight appendices in which the author summarizes the results of the thirteen main international conferences held since the Armistice in 1918, and lists the American proposals put forward at the Geneva Conference in 1932; five of the eight appendices furnish figures on the armed forces and naval strength of the principal nations. The final appendix is a short bibliography which lists a number of worth-while publications on the general subject of peace. The reviewer noted the fact, however, that some of the publications of the Catholic Association for International Peace might have been included, particularly for the chapter on "Religion."

Hearty agreement is accorded Mr. Atkinson's statement that the present policies toward the Church in Germany, if they be carried to execution, "make the Church in Germany ridiculous" (page 159), if by the Church we understand what the Nazi leaders demand. But it is not possible to agree with him that "the courageous few in the Confessional Synod are fighting valiantly against this blasphemous twisting of the plain teaching of the Church" (pages 159-160). All honor to Pastor Niemöller, but Mr. Atkinson might also have been a little more generous with his credit to Cardinal Faulhaber and the Catholics who are fighting just as valiantly as the Confessional Synod against the Nazi nonsense. Again not all will agree that it was because of the birth alone of a "new man in Christ Jesus" that Luther went before the Diet of Worms (page 173). But these are small points in a book which on the whole can be recommended to the general reading public. The volume has a brief but adequate index.

ELIZABETH B. SWEENEY.

Pluck

Claude, by Genevieve Fauconnier; translated by Lauren Ford. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$2.50.

IN A DAY when self-revelation in the form of syndicated news features, magazine articles and autobiographical novels is flaunted before an eager public, the diaries and reminiscences of Claude Dévereux are not quite in style. They are sketchy in form, highly symbolic in word and incident, often lyrical in style. They are filled with a joyous feeling for the beauties of nature, a Dutch master's love of detail. How vivid the contrast between Claude's happy, somewhat pampered childhood and the later drudgery of farming, maternal and household cares! The book may even serve as a warning to youthful romantics who

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yearn for the Arcadian simplicity of the country as an antidote to the noisy artificialities of modern urban life.

Claude willingly left her "trifling, conventional" surroundings, which superficially were very Catholic, in order to attain "a life free of vanities, attached to duties which keep one in contact with the real and the necessary." She thought that Ernest, whom she encountered busy with the rough work of his farm, was the end of her ardent quest. And when later she came to realize that this shadowy, apparently unimaginative figure who had become her husband did not embody her noble aspirations, she faced that fact without flinching. She even wrote that what she so harshly termed "a proud desire of life stripped to the bone" had "unwisely driven me to the desert." In her humble acceptance of suffering she strangely reminds one of a fictional contemporary, the saintly hero of the "Diary of a Country Priest." The pettiness of supposedly Christian French life makes her, too, sick at heart, if for less articulately supernatural reasons. And to a similar degree her acceptance of the consequences of her choice is, in a less lofty or universal sphere, steeped in a Christian heroism like the abnegation of the inspiring protagonist of Georges Bernanos. "Claude" is the recipient of the distinguished Prix Femina award.

EDWARD SKILLIN, JR.

Lower Class Life

Gael over Glasgow, by Edward Shiels. New York: Sheed and Ward. \$2.50.

MR. SHIELS'S novel about Brian O'Neill, the lyrical son of an Irish father and a Highland Scots mother, should arouse both the elemental and ephemeral interests of the reader of fiction. The hero is a fine chap who enjoys his work at the great Clydebank shipyards as much as he does a tramp on the moors. He is a realistically good man with a normal love of family, friends and fist fights, the rights of the working class and the old religion which for him is the anchor of life. The story of his experiences told in garrulous and sometimes sentimental prose derives added interest from the fact that it reflects the life of the Glasgow proletariat against the background of the British general strike and the post-war depression.

Mr. Shiels is especially happy in his description of lower class life—its daily hardships and its all too rare moments of carefree pleasure. However it cannot be said that "Gael over Glasgow" is a great novel. While it lacks the sordid features of some of James Hanley's studies of the Liverpool Irish it also lacks much of Hanley's vivid characterization, and if it is healthier in tone than the novels of Liam O'Flaherty and Sean O'Faolain, it is much less convincing as a story. Mr. Shiels solves his hero's unemployment problem (the only personal difficulty presented in the novel) by the appearance of a very rich uncle from Canada. This conclusion is hardly worthy of the author's very evident abilities as an artist and as a thinker, and introduces much too late in the novel an element of romance that clashes definitely with the predominantly realistic strain of the book as a whole.

FRANCIS X. CONNOLLY.

Briefer Mention

The Washington Correspondents, by Leo C. Rosten. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. \$3.00. An interesting study of the function, techniques and composition of "the capital press corps"—the result of two lengthy questionnaires and sixteen months of intensive research—with emphasis upon the significance of the rôle of 157 able journalists play in the drama of public opinion.

New York City, City of Cities, by Hubert Footner. Philadelphia, Pa.: J. B. Lippincott Company. \$3.50. Manhattan Island, the Mecca of a Nation, is here portrayed through its masses, the individual, buildings new or old, and interesting localities around the town. The author, a former resident, deals personally with many of the above topics and in doing so has given us a delightful and interesting book to go along with the best that has been written of New York.

Off with Their Heads, by Victor Wolfgang von Hagen. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$3.00. While studying plants and insects in the upper Amazon, Ecuador, the author and his wife observed the lives of the Jivaros, celebrated for taking the heads of their fallen foes. Well illustrated, and dispelling many malicious fallacies about those people, it is a book of unquestionable interest.

Adult Education, A Dynamic for Democracy, by Dorothy Hewitt and Kirtley F. Mather. New York: D. Appleton-Century Company. \$1.75. In order to build up the personal forces that will produce and preserve American democracy in an embattled world, the authors prescribe education toward enlightened self-interest and the full realization of one's aspirations and capacities in the true New England manner. The chapters on technique are very helpful.

Cooperation, Its Essence and Background, by Fletcher Durell. Boston: Bruce Humphries. \$1.00. The subject of this short book is not consumers' or producers' or such like cooperation—except incidentally—but rather an eccentric philosophy of cooperating, propounded in pleasantly direct but most unstylish terms. A harmony of the principles of individualism, altruism and balance is sought through highly individualistic musings. In a way it seems like a secular and this-worldly Buchmanism.

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